

December 2025

Dream Big!

A Publication of Oshkosh/
Winnebago County
Housing Authority's
Family Self Sufficiency Program

Merry Christmas & Happy Holiday



1100 W. 20th Avenue
P.O. Box 397
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903
(920) 424-1450
www.ohawcha.org
Dylan Palmer
FSS Program Coordinator
920-279-3622
dpalmer@ohawcha.org

What's Inside:

- December Letter
- OHAWCHA Closed notice
- Money Management Guidance:
 - Holiday Spending
- Community Resources
 - Job Opportunities
- Rent Smart Classes (UPDATED)
 - WIOA Services
 - Starting Point

Dear FSS Participants
(And Community Members),

Hello to everyone. I hope everyone is staying warm! If you or someone you know is experiencing hardships related to energy costs, please consider calling Energy Services, Inc. (contact info is on the flyer to the right).

I wanted to let everyone know that the Oshkosh/Winnebago County Housing Authority Main Office will be closed from **Thursday December 24th through Sunday December 28th** (opening again Monday December 29th) for the Christmas Holiday, as well as **Friday January 1st** for the New Year's Holiday.

As a reminder, our next FSS Connection Meeting will be **in-person** on **December 8th, 2025 at 9:00am**, hosted at the new Vida Parent Support building, located at **601 Oregon St, Suite C. Oshkosh, WI 54902**. Please RSVP to my email (dpalmer@ohawcha.org) so that I get the Vida Team an estimate as to how many community members they should expect.

A reminder to my FSS Participants, I am supposed to have at least one participant at each meeting, so please consider this opportunity.

I look forward to meeting with everyone this month! Please review the rest of the newsletter for more events/notices related to services in our area.

Respectfully,

Dylan Palmer

FSS Program Coordinator

Are High Energy Costs Getting You Down?



Energy Services, Inc. FOR Winnebago Outreach - Menasha may be able to help!

For over 4 decades we have seamlessly provided government, utility-supported and charitable energy assistance grants to those most vulnerable who are reluctant to reach out.

Working closely with county HHS, ADRC and other energy assistance service providers, including the Low Income WX providers and the Home Energy Rebate program, together we are committed to providing the highest level of assistance and services possible for those in need.

While you may not ask for it, we want you to know, we are here to help.

No Wisconsin resident should ever have to face the challenge of living without heat or power or face homelessness.

For a hand up apply today.

2 Simple ways to apply for a WHEAP Energy Assistance Grant!

1

**Call 800-506-5596
Locally 920-729-1433**

- For questions or to schedule an appointment.
- To complete a WHEAP application by phone with our helpful and experienced staff.

OR

2

**You may now also apply
online at **HEAT.HELP****



**The Oshkosh/ Winnebago County
Housing Authority Main Office will
be CLOSED from Thursday
December 24th through Sunday
December 28th (opening again
Monday December 29th) for the
Christmas Holiday.**

**The Office will also be CLOSED on
Friday January 1st for the New
Year's Holiday.**

**We apologize for any
inconvenience this may bring.
Please have Safe, and
Happy Holidays!**

Money Management Guidance: Holiday Spending

25 Tips to SAVE MONEY This Christmas



In case the print is a bit hard to read, here is the list again:

1. Develop a gift-giving philosophy.
2. Budget.
3. Track your spending.
4. Rein in other spending.
5. Choose time over money.
6. Shop early.
7. Give fewer gifts.
8. Resist retail marketing.
9. Use old gift cards.
10. Order online early.
11. Combine your orders.
12. Live by the list.
13. Say no to random gift exchanges.
14. Go in on a group gift.
15. Regift.
16. Make presents.
17. Sell your stuff.
18. Make more money.
19. Spend less on traditions.
20. Get thrifty with stocking stuffers.
21. Donate to charity.
22. Have a virtual party.
23. Don't shop at the mall.
24. Wrap gifts creatively.
25. Be a sentimental spender.

Of course, these are suggestions, not every idea here might apply to you, they are just suggestions for you to work with. One that might seem strange on this list is to donate to charity. This implies donating to get a tax deduction which increases your tax return. This does not necessarily help during the spending period, but it can help with recouping the costs at tax season. It is also important to mention that you have to donate a significant amount *and* to qualifying agencies to get a return.

I am not suggesting, or endorsing this specific tactic, I just wanted to explain what it was getting at.

Community Resources

RISKS & FACTORS WIND CHILL + FROSTBITE

WIND CHILL	RISK FACTOR	TIME TO FROSTBITE
0 to -9	LOW	DISCOMFORT
-10 to -27	MODERATE	HYPOTHERMIA/FROSTBITE
-28 to -39	HIGH	SKIN FREEZES 10-30 MIN
-40 to -47	VERY HIGH	SKIN FREEZES 5-10 MIN
-48 to -54	SEVERE	SKIN FREEZES 2-5 MIN
Below -54	EXTREME	SKIN FREEZES < 2 MIN



HELP Homelessness, Evictions, & Loss Prevention

*Are you struggling with unstable housing? Struggling to keep up on rent/mortgage payments?

*Is your housing instability leading to a possible eviction/foreclosure?

*Have you received a Notice to Vacate by your landlord and are having difficulty finding a new place?

*Do you need assistance getting connected with local community resources?

*If your answer is **yes** to any of these, please reach out as soon as possible to allow HELP time to brainstorm ways to better assist with your housing needs*

Winnebago County Human Services
220 Washington Ave P.O. Box 2187
Oshkosh, WI 54903

Monday-Friday FROM 8 AM - 4:30 PM Walk-In's Welcome
***Appointment preferred**

HELPProgram@winnebagoountywi.gov

HELP On Call Phone
920-509-7629

Winnebago  County

Next Pop-Up Food Pantry is
Saturday December 20, 2025

**Ruby's
PANTRY**

491 Old Oregon Road,
Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

Hosted by: St.
John's Lutheran
Church of Nekimi.
For a \$25 bundle dona-
tion, you will receive
\$150+ in groceries.

DAYS AND HOURS

3rd Saturday of the Month

Registration begins at 9:30 AM

Food bundles available 9:30-11:00 AM

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH @ 9:30 AM

206 STATE STREET OSHKOSH WI 54901

NAMI Oshkosh will be
facilitating a Peer Support Group
at the State Street Center, offering
a welcoming space for individuals
living with mental health
conditions to share experiences,
gain support, and build
community.

HELP IMPROVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Participate in a Research Study

Are you eligible for or currently using public assistance programs like Lifeline?
We want to hear from you!



What's this about?

The University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh is conducting a study to understand barriers to participation in public assistance programs. Your feedback will help improve access for others in your community.



What will I do?

Complete a short online survey about your experiences. It's confidential and voluntary.



Who can participate?

Individuals who may be eligible for the Lifeline program.



How do I join?

Scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/UWO-lifeline

SCAN ME!



Your voice matters. Help us make a difference.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
OSHKOSH

For questions, contact: Dr. Seon Yoon Chung | chung@uwosh.edu | 920-424-3085

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. If you have further questions, please reach out to Kelly Schill, Regulatory Manager; email: schillk@uwosh.edu; Phone (920) 424-3215

Community Resources (Cont.)

Covey Connects Calendar December 2025

Covey

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Calendar Notes: Visit: www.covey.org/events or email us at info@covey.org for detailed information about events and tickets! Tickets may also be purchased at the Covey office: 2200 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh, WI 54901		2 BINGO @ Agape 2-4 PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 Festival of Trees @ The Grand 4-5:30PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 Covey Bakes Muffins @ Respite 4-5:30PM \$15 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 Bowling & Pizza @ Revs 4-6 PM \$15 <input type="checkbox"/>	6
		9 Christmas Ornament Making @ Oshkosh Library 4-6PM \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	10	11 Covey Cooks Tacos @ Downtown YMCA 4-6PM \$15 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 Bowling @ Revs 4-6PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 Holiday Party @ St Johns Church 1-4PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>
14	15	16 Polar Express Movie Night @ Marcus Theatre 4:15-6:15PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	17 Art with Ona @ Oshkosh Food Co-op 4-6PM \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	18 Covey Bakes Christmas Cookies @ Downtown YMCA 4-6PM \$15 <input type="checkbox"/>	19 Bowling @ Revs 4-6PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	20
21	22	23 Volunteer Dinner Serve Team @ Day by Day Warming Shelter 6-7:30PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas	26 Ugly Sweater Bowling Party @ Revs 4-6PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	27
28	29	30 2026 Vision Boards @ Planet Puurk Cafe 3-5PM \$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	31 New Years Eve			

WALK IN WEDNESDAY December 3



Open Office Hours
Hyde Family Community Center
at the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh
545 Monroe Street, Door 11



Looking for resources or support?

Join us during Open Office Hours, a time for Community members *and* Club families to connect directly with local organizations & services conveniently at the Club.

Each month will welcome rotating partners from 3:30 - 5:30 pm.

Questions? Contact Michelle Rector
(920) 233-1414 x135 or micheller@bgcosh.org



Scan the QR code
to learn more
about the
community
partners joining
us December 3!





Open Interviews

**December 10
10:00 AM –
2:00 PM**

**Allied Universal is hiring
Security Officers in
Greater Appleton!**

**Starting Pay Range:
\$17 - \$21 / hour
WEEKLY PAY**

**Double Tree Hotel
150 S Nicolet Rd
Appleton, WI**

SCAN TO APPLY



JOIN OUR PHENOMENAL TEAM

Allied Universal® is the leading security services company in North America with over 800,000 employees. When you join our team, you will have the opportunity to advance your career. We foster a promote-from-within culture. You too can become one of Allied Universal's many success stories.

Qualifications

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Possess a high school diploma or equivalent, or 5 years verifiable experience
- Possess a valid driver's license
- Licensing requirements are subject to state and/or local laws and regulations and may be required prior to employment.
- Display exceptional customer service and communication skills
- As a condition of employment, employee must successfully complete a background investigation and a drug screen in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws
- Possess effective written and oral communication and interpersonal skills with ability to deal with all levels of personnel and the general public in a professional and effective manner

Full-Time Benefits

- Medical/Dental/Vision
- Company-Paid Life Insurance
- 401k Retirement Plan
- Recognition & Reward Programs
- Career Advancement Opportunities
- Training & Career Development Programs
- Company Discounts & Perks Programs
- Service Anniversary Awards
- Partners in Employment Referral Program
- Paid WEEKLY with a Daily Pay options

Event Details

- Apply before or at the event and interview on the spot
- Bring a resume
- Bring a photo ID

Equal Opportunity Employer



RENT SMART 2026



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Taught by Extension Educators

Helping to make renting a great experience for you!

Winter/Spring 2026 Online Class Schedule

FREE!

December 2025	1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18 1:00-2:00 PM (Mon/Thur)
January	13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 9:00-10:00 AM (Tue/Fri)
March	14, 21, 28 9:00-11:30 AM (Saturday)
April	14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 7:00-8:00 PM (Tue/Thur)
May	4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22 1:00-2:00 PM (Mon/Fri)
June	9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (Tue/Wed)

- ✓ Classes are taught online via Zoom
- ✓ Participants must complete all six modules to earn the Rent Smart certificate

To register, scan the QR code or go to
<https://go.wisc.edu/RentSmartRegister>

What you'll learn:

- ✓ To manage monthly expenses
- ✓ To find and maintain affordable housing
- ✓ To complete applications and understand tenant screening
- ✓ To build positive relationships with landlords and neighbors
- ✓ The responsibilities and rights of landlords and tenants

SCAN



For more information, contact Todd Wenzel, todd.wenzele@wisc.edu or 920-232-1982

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law. You may request an interpreter, material in an alternative language or format, or other services to make Extension's programming more accessible. Make your request at least 25 days before the event. There is no added cost for these services.



GET YOUR DREAM LIFE

Take your next steps with us to get the career you want for the *life* you want

Here's what you can get:



Tuition for training and school



Connections to local employers



Help with gas, rent, and other needs



A career that's right for you



Someone in **your** corner **all the way!**

OUR SPECIALIZED INITIATIVES

WIOA Adult Program

Provides job services to people looking for a **new career path**, want to go back to **school**, or want to **train** for good jobs that pay well.

FORWD Program

Supports people who have been **impacted** by the **opioid crisis** or who **seek training** to help those impacted by the opioid crisis.

WIOA Youth Program

Supports **youth ages 14 - 24**, who are facing barriers, find a job, earn their GED, or enroll in post-secondary education or training.

WIOA Dislocated Worker Program

Helps those who've **lost employment** due to a **mass layoff** or economic transition find work as quickly as possible.



Ready to start?

Contact us to learn more

Starting Point

Starting Point is designed to help women ages 18 and older in the areas of financial planning skills, empowerment, and career planning that will lead to further education and/or a new career. Women will gain the necessary skills to go to college, learn how to network and access available resources, meet other women with similar life experiences, gain confidence and build self-esteem, and learn how to manage finances and relationships. This program is open to mothers and women without children. Women must be a resident of Outagamie, Calumet, Shawano, Waupaca, or Winnebago County.

Fall 2025 Dates & Times

Appleton: 9/10/25 to 12/3/25 Wednesdays 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Oshkosh: 9/13/25-12/3/25, Saturdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Virtual: 9/10/25 to 12/3/25, Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, No Childcare

Spring 2026 Dates & Times

Appleton: 2/11/26 to 5/13/26, Wednesdays 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Oshkosh: 2/14/26 to 5/13/26, Saturdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Childcare Provided

Virtual: 2/11/26 to 5/13/26, Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, No Childcare

"Starting Point has helped me build skills I didn't have and to sharpen skills I already had."

Women Will Learn

"I felt like I had some control over my life and where it was going."

Time Management

Self-Esteem

Goal Setting

Community Resources

Empowerment Topics

Career Development

Study Skills

Assertiveness

Healthy Relationships



Grants available for moving forward with education without financial stress.



FVTC ID available for free busing on GO Transit.



OSHKOSH AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

WOMEN'S fund
for the fox valley region, inc.



Contact Information: Kara Nowak | (920) 735-5722 | kara.nowak7593@fvtc.edu
To find out if you are eligible and have a staff member contact you, fill out this survey: www.fvtc.edu/StartingPoint